

HOUSE RESOLUTION 303

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to recognize the staff of WKSR Radio for their exceptional commitment to community service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable businesses whose employees have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, WCMT Radio in Pulaski is one such remarkable operation; giving generously of their time and energies, the owners, management, and staff of the radio station have made a positive and lasting difference in the lives of many Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the radio station's outstanding commitment to community service began in the early 1950s with the station's new owners, John R. "Happy" Stephens and his wife, Beechie, and has since been carried out by every succeeding owner; and

WHEREAS, the station devotes two Sundays each year to the cause of raising money for local charities; programming is suspended at 12:30 p.m. to auction merchandise and services donated by local businesses, and the auction often runs as late as midnight in order to sell as many items as possible; and

WHEREAS, for many years, the auction was held at the radio station's facility, utilizing a side room to provide storage and retrieval space for the auctioned items; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the auction site was moved to Holley's Printing in Pulaski; the move not only provided additional space to store the items, but also allowed easier access for many more people to enjoy the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, WKSR's auctions have benefited numerous worthy causes and organizations, including the March of Dimes, the local rescue squad, Martin Methodist College

Library, New Canaan Ranch, Senior Citizen's Center, Hope House, Child Development Center, the 4-H Endowment program, and high school band programs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that WKSR's auctions have raised more than \$1.1 million since its inception in 1953, a remarkable achievement and a testament to the staff's dedication to community service; and

WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, WKSR Radio has truly been a catalyst for positive change in their community; and

WHEREAS, the staff of WKSR Radio is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State" and should be specially recognized; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the staff of WKSR Radio for their meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee, salute their unwavering commitment to community service, and extend to them our best wishes for success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.